

# Board of Director's Meeting

Date: Monday, December 11, 2017

## Attendance:

Kim Maher, President  
Anthony Jackman, Vice-President  
Matt Dove, Treasurer  
Ed Byrne, Secretary, **Eastern Region**  
Trudy Goold, Self-Advocate  
Colin Hodder, At Large  
Patrick Martin, At Large  
Carolyn Hodder, At Large

Kimberly Maich, At Large  
Karen Flynn, **South Central (Acting)**  
Kendra Lane, Director of Operations  
Scott Crocker, Chief Executive Officer

## Regrets:

Mark LaCosta, **Western Region**  
Angela Decker, At Large  
Neala Quigley, At Large

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Maher when a quorum was reached; at 7:03pm. Attendance was recorded to ensure a quorum existed; there were 10 Directors present.

## 1. Consent Agenda (Appendix A):

Moved by Trudy Goold, seconded by Patrick Martin; carried, that the Consent Agenda be adopted as presented (**Motion 1211-0001**). Request made to have Minutes and Action Item Tracker listed "outside" the Consent Agenda moving forward. There was agreement by the BOD.

## 2. New Business:

### a. Governance

The Committee will resume work on development of a formal Governance Policy for ASNL. Review of sample document of real policy for another local organization, provided by Patrick Martin, will be starting point. It exists in a Google Folder; the CEO will send the link to the BOD.

At the same time, Senior Management will complete drafting an updated Chapter Agreement for presentation to the Governance Committee in early February, for discussion and constructive feedback. The Governance Committee will then share that revised draft with the entire board for discussion and debate, amendments, etc. The goal is to conclude the Chapter Agreement for signatures by the President, Regional Reps and CEO before the scheduled March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. **NOTE: this may be delayed by core funding decisions from government and/or results of an ongoing operational review.**



**Action Item 12.11.20:** CEO will send link to Sample NGO Governance Policy on Google Docs.

**Action Item 12.11.21:** CEO will prepare updated draft of Chapter Agreement and present to Governance Committee in early February.

**Action Item 12.11.22:** Governance Committee will present status report on Revised Chapter Agreement at regular BOD March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Action Item 12.11.23:** Senior Management will identify several options for a Spring Retreat to finalize the Governance Policy and Chapter Agreement and poll Directors as to preferred location, month and date.

### **b. Onsite Renovation/Expansion of Facilities, Shamrock Farm, St. John's**

The BOD expressed a renewed interest in moving this project forward at the earliest opportunity:

- i. More space is needed for increased and varied program offerings
- ii. More staff are needed to accommodate present registrants each semester; more than 100 are being denied access

The CEO related several facts re the expansion project:

- The 2015 costing was 3.4 million; a prudent capital campaign target is perhaps \$5 million.
- ACOA has been intimately involved in development of the project; there is interest in perhaps 50% funding support
- TCII has been intimately involved in development of the project; there is interest in perhaps 25% funding support
- Some ASNL funds on hand in the newly created internal restricted fund can be put towards the project (e.g. 5%)
- A capital campaign would be the mechanism to raise the remaining 20%

The project has been at a standstill since Spring 2017 because ACOA is requesting a Letter of Intent from the provincial government, stating it will provide increased annual core funding in an amount that permits hiring of additional staff for newly created capacity (more than double the present capacity).

**Action Item 12.11.24:** CEO will develop an Action Plan with practical options on how to proceed and see completion of this project at the earliest opportunity.

### **c. To Siri With Love**

Trudy Goold, Self-Advocate, informed Directors about the controversy surrounding this book, published in August 2016 by Judith Norman (USA), the mother of a male autistic youth. Some in the ASD community are angry with mom's relaying private and confidential facts about her son; her discussion around forced sterilization of her autistic son; and her ignoring concerns raised by those in the ASD community. Also of concern was the listing of Autism Society NL, and other organizations, in the Resources section at the end of the book. It was apparent endorsement of the book.



The CEO advised neither he or other staff know anything about the book or why our name was included. We posted that fact Twitter, in response to a direct question. Directors asked that Trudy ensure her friends are made aware that ASNL knows nothing about the book, that we were never approached by the author or publisher, and that we gave no permission to be listed as a resource in the book. Authors are free to name public organizations, such as ASNL, with a website and multiple resources on that site, in a resource listing in any book.

**Action Item 12.11.25:** CEO will have a 'prepared' response on behalf of ASNL if/when approached by anyone. It will clearly indicate no familiarity with the book, its author, contents, etc. and that no permission was ever sought or given to list ASNL in the Resource section of the book.

**d. Other**

**i. Spring Family Conference**

Directors asked that this topic become part of the agenda/responsibility of the Programs & Services Committee. Furthermore, several offered to make themselves available as presenters and/or panelists for such a conference at no cost. Kendra Lane mentioned that data already exists as to parent/caregiver preferences re topics, location, time of day, venue, type of presentation, etc. Will review ways to increase accessibility to the conference (i.e. technology).

**Adjournment**

Moved by Kimberly Maich, seconded by Matt Dove; carried, that the meeting adjourns at 8:45 pm. **(Motion 1211-0002)**

All board meeting minutes must be ratified. Only minutes that are reviewed at the next board meeting and are signed by two (2) members of the board will be ratified.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member #2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# APPENDIX A

## Board of Director's Meeting

December 11, 2017

### The Consent Agenda

#### 2. Consent Agenda

- a. What is a Consensus Agenda? How does it work?
- b. Adoption of Minutes: October 2, 2017 and November 4, 2017
- c. Action Items Tracker: Progress Report
- d. Standing Reports
  - i. President (incl. Quarterly Board Report to Membership: Q2)
  - ii. Chief Executive Officer
  - iii. Self-Advocate
  - iv. Autism Canada National Update
- e. Standing Committee Reports
  - i. Community Engagement
  - ii. Programs and Services
  - iii. Finance & Risk Management (FARM)
  - iv. Governance
- f. Old Business
  - i. Director – Roles, Responsibilities and Commitment Forms
  - ii. Standing Committees – Chairs and Members

